



**HARRISHEALTH**  
SYSTEM

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# **Harris Health System**

## **How and Where Service Linkage Fits in a Routine HIV Screening Program**

# Project RUSH -- Background

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2008-2009 | Began routine opt-out screening at Ben Taub and LBJ                                  |
| 2010-2011 | Added 12 community health centers  |
| 2012      | Added 6 Healthcare for the Homeless clinic sites<br>(4 more to be added by year-end) |

# Project RUSH – Key Features

- We use an opt-out process
- We use standard blood testing processed on a rapid basis (ERs only)
- We make it easy for staff:
  - No extra paperwork
  - No extra procedures
  - No requirements for extra time spent with patients

## Key Features (continued)

- We work closely with the local public health authority to verify new/existing cases
- We use dedicated service linkage staff to ensure comprehensive follow-through to care

# Project RUSH Stats

## August 4, 2008 – October 14, 2012

Total Tests	255,682
New Positives	811
Prevalence	0.32%
Previous Positives	3,091
Overall Prevalence	1.21%
Total Positives	3,902

# Purpose of Service Linkage

## **National HIV/AIDS Strategy Goal**

Increase the proportion of newly diagnosed patients linked to clinical care within 3 months of their HIV diagnosis from 65 to 85 percent by 2015.

# What is the service linkage role?

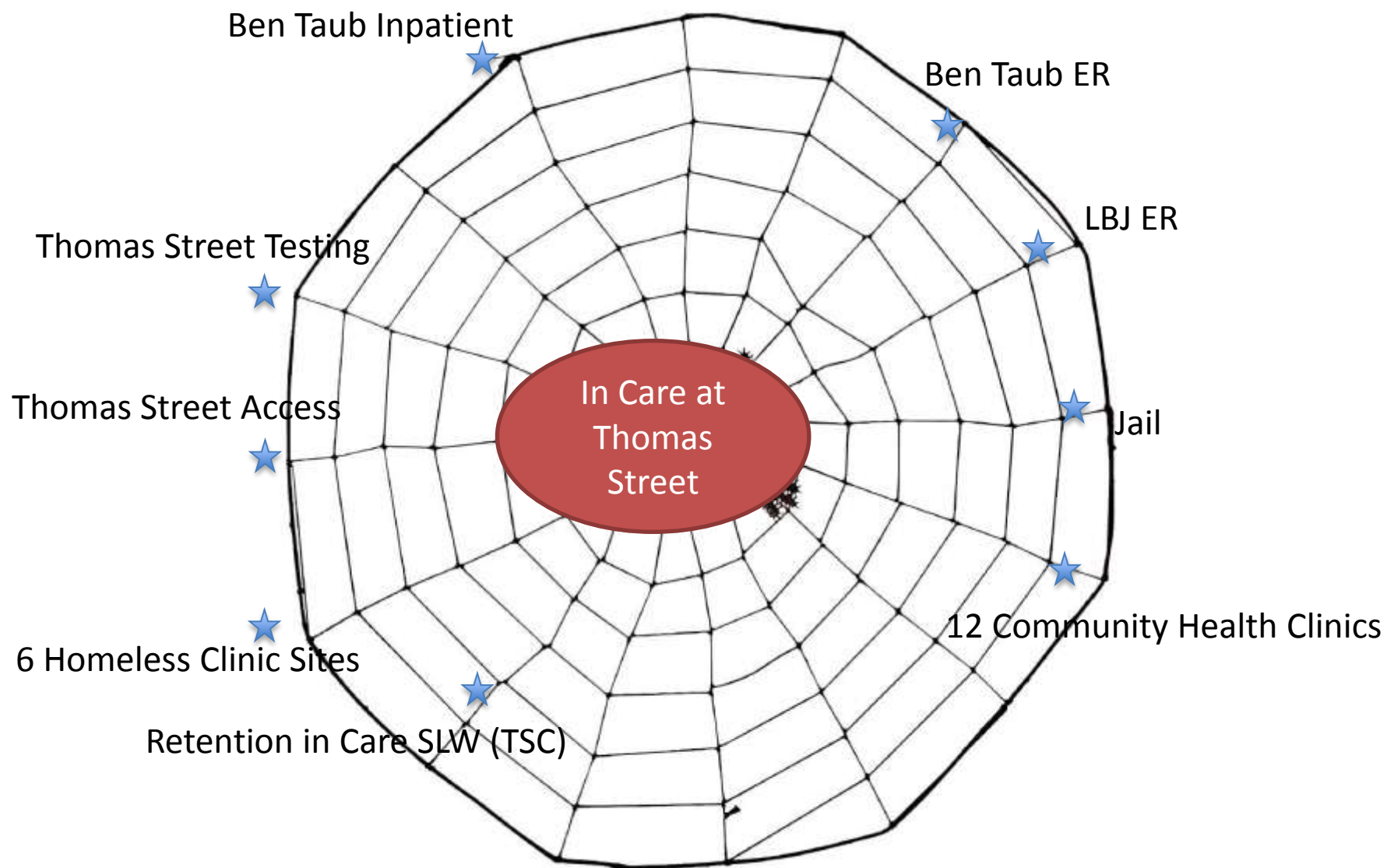
- Provide HIV testing services
- Conduct and document patient assessments
  - For hospitalized patients
  - For patients new to Thomas Street
- Assist patients with access and adherence
- Assure completion of referral process
- Assist patients in navigating agency procedures



## Service linkage role (continued)

- Work with case managers and other clinic staff to ensure patient care plans are implemented

# Model of the Service Linkage System



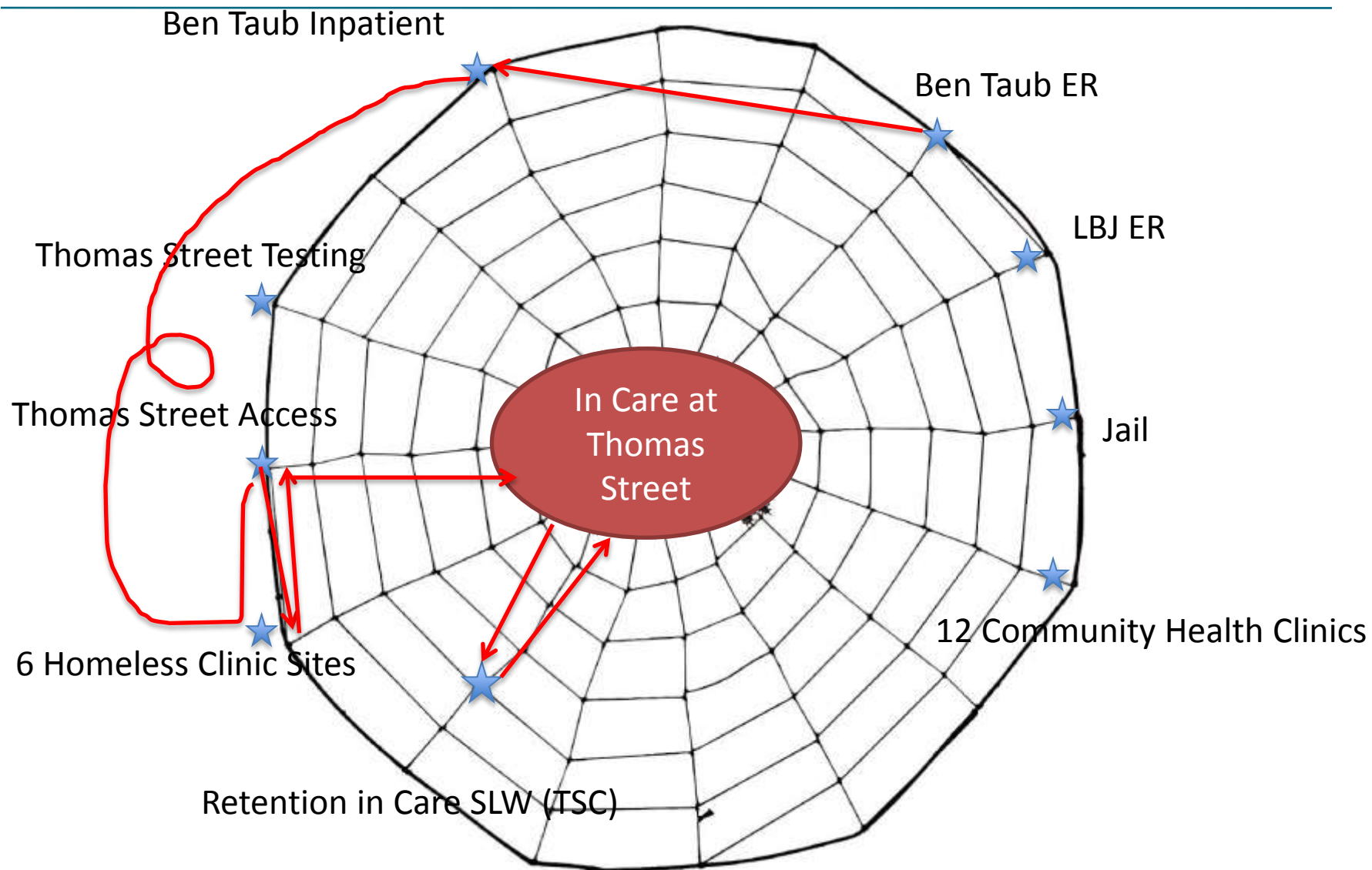
# Results -- Linkage to Care

- Linkage to Care:

2008	25%
2009	44%
2010	47%
2011	62%

- Health Status:

Percent with CD4 greater than 350 c/mm<sup>3</sup> appears to be increasing.



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